
GERMAN STUDIES

In the Department of German and Russian

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The German program emphasizes the acquisition of superior skills in the German language as the basis for the study of the literatures and cultures of the German-speaking world. Unless otherwise noted, all courses are taught in German as students continue to hone their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Upper-level courses provide training in close reading and analysis of literary and cultural texts in order to further students' understanding of a culture different from their own. Students at all levels explore literature and film alongside culture and politics as well as history and contemporary affairs.

Majors in German studies are encouraged to study their entire junior year in a German-speaking country; majors and minors are encouraged to spend at least one semester abroad. Study-abroad options include approved programs in Berlin, Munich, Freiburg, Tübingen, and Salzburg. The German faculty welcomes inquiries from students regarding the different programs and the one-semester and full-year options.

The major in German studies and the German minor provide excellent preparation for students who wish to pursue German-related grant opportunities, employment in international companies and organizations, or careers in government or academics.

Requirements for the Major in German Studies

The major in German studies requires 10 semester courses: six courses taught in German numbered above 127 including a 200-, a 300-, and a 400-level course and four additional courses chosen from the German curriculum, taken abroad, or chosen from courses with a substantial German component in departments such as Art, Government, History, Music, and Philosophy. Once declared, all majors must take at least one course in the German program each semester they are on campus until graduation.

Requirements for the German Minor

The minor in German requires six courses in the German program beginning with German 126, including a 200- and a 300-level course. Students who enter the program at the intermediate or advanced level should consult with their advisor in German regarding course selection.

The following statements also apply:

- The point scale for retention of the major and the minor is based on all required and approved courses numbered above German 127 for the major and German 126 for the minor.
- No major requirement may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
- Transfer of credits for courses from other institutions, including study abroad, will be evaluated by the advisor in German on an individual basis.
- Teacher certification: Students desiring certification for teaching German should consult the faculty in German and in the Education Program.

Courses Approved for the Major in German Studies

Anthropology

- 252 Language in Culture and Society

Art

- 278 19th-Century European Art

Cinema Studies

- 142 Introduction to Cinema Studies

East Asian Studies

- 221 Second Language Pedagogy

English

- 200 Foundations of Literary Studies
- 271 Critical Theory

Government

- 245 Memory and Politics
- 259 Introduction to European Politics
- 266 German Politics
- 344 Post-Communist Transformations
- 457 Seminar: Germany and Europe

History

- 111 Europe from the Classical World to the Religious Wars
- 112 Revolutions of Modern Europe
- 120 Spotlight on History: The Holocaust and Genocide in Europe
- 141 Genocide and Globalization: 20th-Century World History
- 224 Germany and Europe, 1871-1945
- 322 Europe and the Second World War
- 421 Research Seminar: Debating the Nazi Past

Music

- 241 Music History I: Middle Ages to the Early Baroque Period
- 242 Music History II: High Baroque to the Dawn of Romanticism
- 341 Music History III: Music of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Philosophy

- 240 Ethics on the Continent: From Kant to Levinas
- 337 Philosophy of Humor
- 389 Philosophers in Focus: Ludwig Wittgenstein

Religious Studies

- 182 Jews, Judaism, and the Modern World
- 298 Jews of Germany, Past and Present

Sociology

- 215 Classical Sociological Theory

Course Offerings

GM125f Elementary German I Introductory course for students with little or no previous knowledge of German. Development of all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Communicative and interactive acquisition of grammar and vocabulary via study of contemporary life in the German-speaking countries. Audiovisual materials and integrated multimedia accompany textbook instruction.

Four credit hours. A. KOCH

[GM125J] Elementary German I Introductory course for students with little or no previous knowledge of German. Development of all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Communicative and interactive acquisition of grammar and vocabulary via study of contemporary life in the German-speaking countries. Audiovisual materials and integrated multimedia accompany textbook instruction.

Three credit hours.

GM126s Elementary German II Continuation of Elementary German I to further develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Communicative and interactive acquisition of grammar and vocabulary via study of contemporary life in the German-speaking countries. Audiovisual materials accompany textbook instruction and integrated multimedia. *Prerequisite:* German 125 or appropriate score on the German placement exam. *Four credit hours.* H. KOCH

GM127f Intermediate German I: Exploring German Studies An investigative and experiential course focused on content/disciplinary practices in the field of German Studies and different forms of (non-)digital storytelling, GM127 is an introduction to extended readings and writings in German via cultural contexts. Leads students toward understanding the intersections of the German-speaking world and their studies at Colby via modular exploration of the field of German Studies (that is, by equipping students with the tools for analysis of aesthetic and intellectual accomplishments representative of major periods in German, Austrian, and Swiss history, the course will enable students to address the question *What constitutes German Studies?*) and through different forms of storytelling. **Humanities lab course.** *Prerequisite:* German 126 or appropriate score on the German placement exam. *Four credit hours.* ELLIS

GM128s Intermediate German II: Readings in Cultural Contexts Continuation of Intermediate German I. Practice and review of written and oral communication skills emphasizing formation of correct, idiomatic structures. Strives to build reading skills and to introduce a variety

of cultural ideas and contexts through selection of literary and cultural readings/viewings in German. Preparation for transition to in-depth study in a variety of areas of German studies. *Prerequisite:* German 127 or appropriate score on the German placement exam. *Four credit hours.* A. KOCH

GM129f Conversation Group Review and practice for students at the intermediate level. A selection of written, visual, and audio German language and culture sources will provide the basis for discussion and conversation. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major and minor. May be repeated for credit. Nongraded. *Prerequisite:* German 126. *One credit hour.* LOENING

GM130s Conversation Group Review and practice for students at the intermediate level. A selection of written, visual, and audio German language and culture sources will provide the basis for discussion and conversation. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major and minor. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite:* German 127 or, with permission, concurrent enrollment in German 126. Nongraded. *One credit hour.* LOENING

GM236s ConTexts in German Culture Introduction to critical analysis of select genres from German, Austrian, and Swiss cultures. Topics vary but through deepening of close reading skills of written, performed, and visual texts, this course examines socio-historical moments in their relationship to key notions and genres, including women writers, identity and crisis, comedy, fairy tales, and the canon. Focus continues on composition and conversation with development of critical, written, and interpretive analysis, and student presentations. *Prerequisite:* German 128 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.* A. KOCH

[GM237] The German Fairy Tale in Popular Culture (in English) Fairy tales permeate our culture on every level. Examines the role of the fairy tale (folktales, romantic variations, and Disney versions alike) in the construction of culture along with their adaptations in the media, comics, literature, art, and film. In analyzing the historical and social development of fairy tales as a genre, students are introduced to methods of literary analysis and cultural criticism. Counts toward the German major or minor. Open to first-year students. Conducted in English. *Four credit hours.* L.

[GM244] Reading the Short Story (in English) Short stories are difficult, consuming, and complex. This course is designed to facilitate close and attentive readings, emphasizing textual interpretation and concise writing to a diverse selection of modern short prose. Concerns will be: how to read and then write about short stories, and how to discuss multiple viewpoints as we examine themes, narratives, and style. Students are asked to think about story elements, including plot, setting, and character, and the way that grammatical features and figurative language shape the analysis of the text. *Four credit hours.* L.

[GM252] Mission Impossible: Multicultural German Literature and Film (inEnglish) Introduction to German-speaking literature and film by writers and filmmakers of African (Ayim, Oguntoye), Japanese (Tawada), Jewish (Celan, Honigmann), Romanian (Müller, Wagner), Russian (Kaminer), and Turkish (Özdamar, Zaimoglu, Akin) backgrounds. Emphasis on contemporary literature, with background readings from the Enlightenment through the present. Examination of creative approaches to issues of migration, exile, and globalization, with focus on language politics, identity formation, gender, history and memory, and the multicultural city. Counts toward the German major or minor. Open to first-year students. Conducted in English. *Four credit hours.* L, I.

[GM263] Weird Fictions (in English) This reading- and writing-intensive seminar considers the construction of the genre of science fiction (broadly defined). We will read short prose and novels from the 19th century to the present by authors such as E.T.A. Hoffmann, Patrick Süskind, and Franz Kafka, Octavia Butler, and Bram Stoker. In addition we will read texts that function as hybrid and complementary permutations of science fiction such as magical realism, speculative fiction, and utopian/dystopian fictions. Conducted in English. *Four credit hours.* L.

[GM264] Kafka and his Contexts (in English) Franz Kafka (1883-1924) plays a major role in the construction of the modern and postmodern literary canon of the 20th century. We will read his short stories and parables, selected letters, and journal entries. We will approach Kafka both as an author who made inventive incursions into the universes of Romantic inspirations, including Heinrich von Kleist and E.T.A. Hoffmann, and as an influence on the narrative fictions of modernist and postmodernist authors who incorporated elements of Kafka's writings, such as Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino, Juan Rulfo, and Harukui Murakami. Conducted in English. *Three credit hours.* L.

GM297f Animals, Hybrids, and Machines: Franz Kafka and the Non-Human An exploration of ambivalent forms of beings that include but are not limited to a singing mouse, a distressed mole, and a metallic automaton. Instead of a singular focus on the human, we will read texts that do not center the normative human as central to an understanding of the material. In this course, the human is not entirely abandoned but just moved to the periphery so that we can associate with the other identities that shape our world. We examine how the animal, the hybrid, and the machine show us different definitions of a kind of life that can be called melancholic, heroic, or even tragic. Readings will be taken primarily from the works of Franz Kafka. We will also engage other texts, essays, poems, and films from the

19th/20th centuries that have also shaped literary expression. *Prerequisite:* German 128 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.* L. ELLIS

GM329f Current Topics An informal weekly meeting for students at the advanced level for conversation practice. Source materials include newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary German film, television broadcasts, and podcasts, along with other media. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major or minor. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite:* German 128. Nongraded. *One credit hour.* LOENING

GM330s Current Topics An informal weekly meeting for students at the advanced level for conversation practice. Source materials include newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary German film, television broadcasts and podcasts, along with other media. Conducted in German. Does not count toward the language requirement or the German major or minor. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite:* A 200-level German course. Nongraded. *One credit hour.* LOENING

GM342f Contested Subjects in German Culture Introduction to critical analysis of contested subjects in German and German-speaking cultures. While topics vary, this course will refine close reading skills of written and visual texts, including poetry, works of art, drama, short stories, prose, and film that focus on culturally contested topics. Focus on critical, written and interpretive analysis, student presentations, and exposure to relevant cultural, theoretical, and historical sources. Conducted in German. *Prerequisite:* A 200-level German course. *Four credit hours.* ELLIS

[GM346] Jews of Germany, Past and Present Listed as Religious Studies 346. *Four credit hours.* H, I.

GM491f, 492s Independent Study Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. *Prerequisite:* Permission of the instructor. *Two to four credit hours.* FACULTY

[GM493] Seminar: Ideologies and Identities Critically assesses ways German art and culture engage with ideologies and questions of personal, cultural, and political concepts of identity. Among key ideas, the persistent "German question," along with notions of *Heimat*, regional and transnational belonging, gender, language politics, class, race. Discussions based on representative readings (poetry, prose, and drama), forms of artistic expression (music, visual art, and film), theory and secondary literature from the Enlightenment through the present-day Berlin Republic. Students write weekly response papers and short critical essays, participate in a writing workshop, complete a final research paper in German, and present research findings in a public symposium. *Prerequisite:* A 300-level German course and senior standing. *Four credit hours.* L.

GM493Bs Seminar: Readings in the 20th Century Novel This seminar addresses the works of twentieth-century authors, who, in very different ways, challenge the conventional ways in which Europe is identified and understood by its constituents. Particular attention is paid to the theorization of political, cultural, and sexual spaces and the use of language as a radical negotiation of traditional ways of writing. We will also explore the relationship between historical legacies and memory, the margin and the center, the layered structure of violence, and the representation of textual boundaries in flux. Focus will be on close readings of texts, the use of secondary sources, weekly writing responses, workshops, a final research paper in German, and a presentation of research findings in a public forum. *Prerequisite:* A 300-level German course and senior standing. *Four credit hours.* L. ELLIS